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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

First record of *Cithaeron reimoseri* (Araneae: Cithaeronidae) from the New World and first record of the family from southern Brazil

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ABSTRACT: The African spider *Cithaeron reimoseri* Platnick, 1991 is registered for the first time in the New World, based in two females collected at Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Until now *C. reimoseri* was known only by the holotype from Eritrea. The species *C. praedonius* O. P.-Cambridge, 1872 was, until now, the only known species of the family with worldwide distribution and is considered prone to introduction in anthropic environments. Cithaeronidae are considered lower gnaphosoids being identifiable by the depressed posterior median eyes and the pseudosegmented tarsi.

The spider family Cithaeronidae includes nowadays seven species distributed in the genera *Cithaeron* O. P.-Cambridge, 1872 and in the monotypic *Inthaeron* Platnick, 1991 (Platnick 2012). The species of this family are known predominantly from Africa, the Mediterranean and India. However there is at least one species, *Cithaeron praedonius* O. P.-Cambridge, 1872; with worldwide distribution, including areas in Middle East, Malaysia and in Australia (Platnick 1991, 1994, 2002, 2012). In spite of being known by worldwide distribution this species is just represented by few known specimens, being described in the last 140 years with at least half a dozen different names (Platnick 1991).

Recently Cithaeronidae was registered in the New World through the identification of specimens *C. praedonius* found in the city of Teresina, state of Piauí, Brazil (Carvalho *et al.* 2007). According to authors, the specimens of Piauí were collected in anthropic environments, reinforcing the hypothesis of accidental introduction.

Chitaeronids are representatives of "lower gnaphosoids" as well as spiders belonging to Ammoxenidae, Gallieniellidae and Trochanteridae (Platnick 2002). According to Platnick (1991) species of this family can be distinguished from the above cited families and from higher gnaphosoids (Gnaphosidae and Prodidomidae) by the follow combined characters: presence of conical and narrowly separated anterior spinnerets bearing a subdistal sclerotized ring and unmodified piriform gland spigots, deep oblique depressed palpal endites, unflattened body, unelongated chelicerae and by the presence of long, pseudosegmented tarsi.

The material examined is deposited in the arachnological collection of Museu de Ciências Naturais da Fundação Zoobotânica do Rio Grande do Sul (MCN, Ricardo Ott) and Museu de Ciências Naturais da Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul (MCTP, Arno A. Lise). Images were obtained at stereomicoscope with coupled digital camera; multi-focus stack images were made using Helicon Focus multi-range program; images of the internal morphological aspect of the epigynum were obtained after immersion in clove oil for 24 hours; nomenclature follows Platnick (1991).

By the examination of the spiders of the family Gnaphosidae deposited in the collections of MCN and MCTP two single females of *C. reimoseri* Platnick were identified (MCN 28854; Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil, 08.XII.1997, A. Francenschini leg.; MCTP 12830, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil, 19.III.2001, F. Prates leg.) (Figure 1A-B). As an interesting fact it is worth to mention that males of this species are not known and until now the species was known only by the female holotype from Adi Kaie, Eritrea, (Platnick 1991). In this way the specimens from Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil, deposited at MCN and MCTP are regarded as the second known register of this species.

The morphology of the female internal genitalia of *C. reimoseri* is similar to *C. delimbatus* Strand, 1906 and *C. joqueorum* Platnick, 1991, but it differs from both by the shape of the atrium which is heptagonal, by the large ovoid spermathecae and by the enlarged posterior copulatory ducts (Figure 1C-E; see also Platnick 1991: 10, figures 17-20 and 26-27).

The register of *C. reimoseri*, a second species of Cithaeronidae for the Neotropics reinforces the hypothesis that these spiders are prone to adaptation to human environments after accidental introduction.

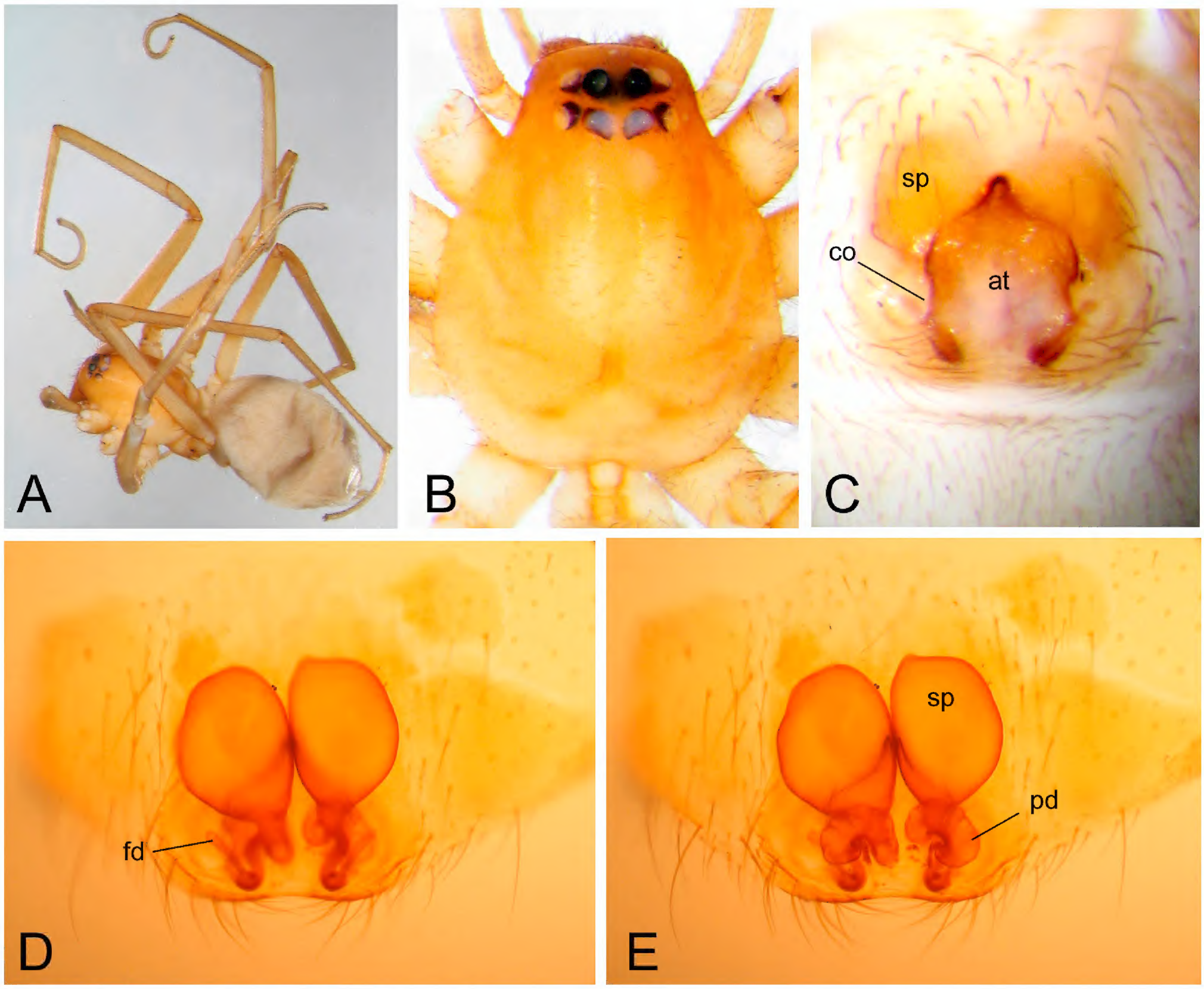

Figure 1. *C. reimoseri* (MCN28854). A, dorsolateral view; B, cephalothorax, dorsal; C, epigynum, ventral; D, epigynum dorsal, cleared, only intermediary stack images to show fertilization ducts; E, epigynum dorsal, cleared. Abbreviations: co, copulatory opening; at, atrium; sp, spermathecae; fd, fertilization ducts; pd, posterior copulatory duct. Measurement: Figure 1, total length of specimen (carapace + abdomen) = 5.36mm.

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